



# Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking  
Member**

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Contact: Nadra Harrison  
202.226.2616

## CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENED CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

**May 3, 2005**, Washington, DC-- Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Homeland Security, is calling for legislation to improve citizen preparedness efforts in light of a May 3, 2005 *Washington Post* article on nuclear preparedness.

The article, "*U.S. Called Unprepared for Nuclear Terrorism*" highlights the need for improved citizen preparedness efforts within the Department of Homeland Security. Congressman Thompson stated:

**"These reports emphasize the need for improved citizen preparedness initiatives within the Department. It is unacceptable that more than 3 ½ years after 9/11 there's still no clear message on how to adequately prepare our citizens for future attacks. Within the next few days, we will introduce legislation to improve citizen preparedness programs within the DHS."**

During the markup of the DHS authorization bill, H.R. 1817, Congressman Thompson, Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and Congresswoman Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-TX) offered an amendment to strengthen citizen preparedness efforts within the DHS and to authorize the existing Citizen Corps Program. The Democratic amendment failed along a party line vote.

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